

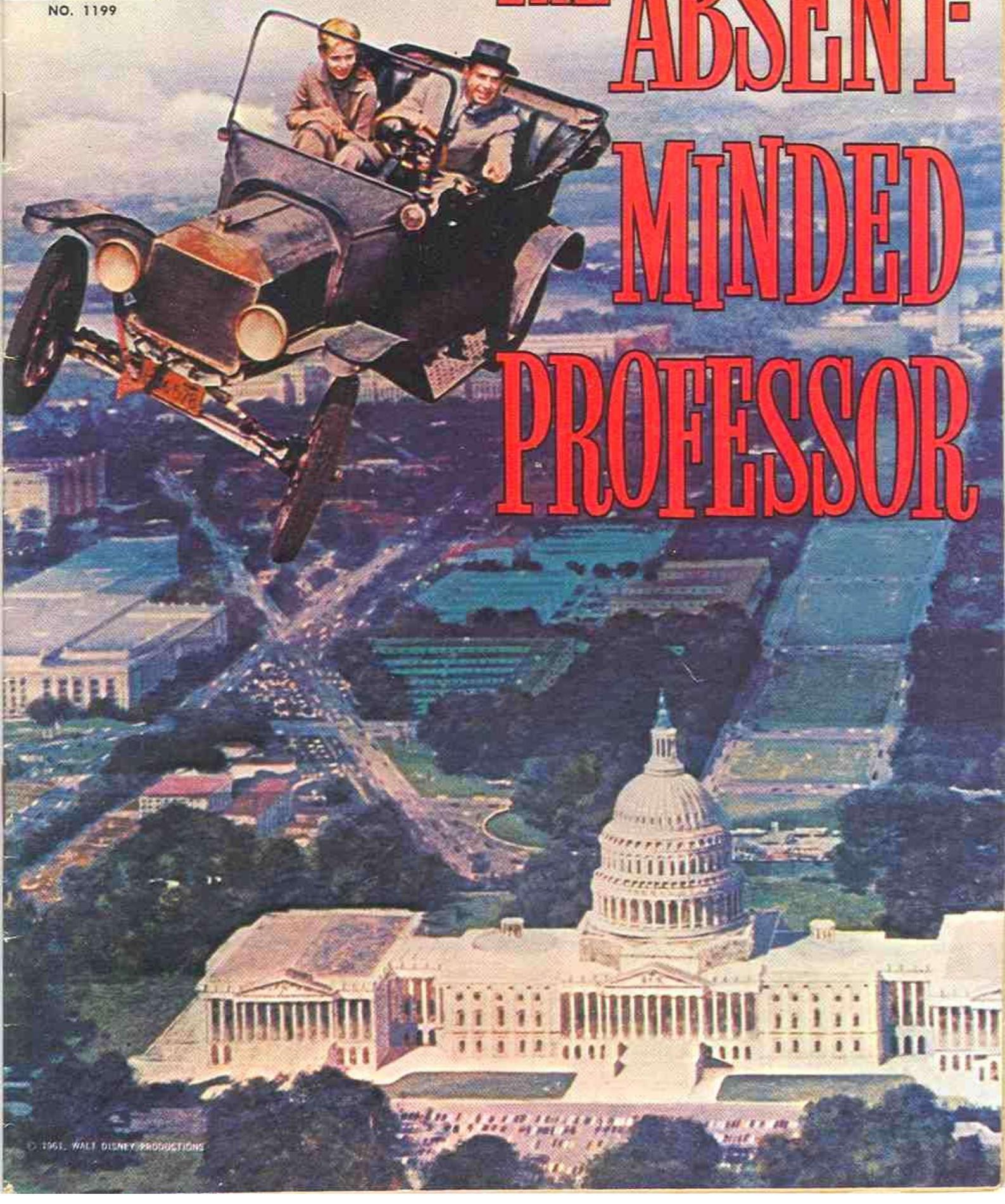


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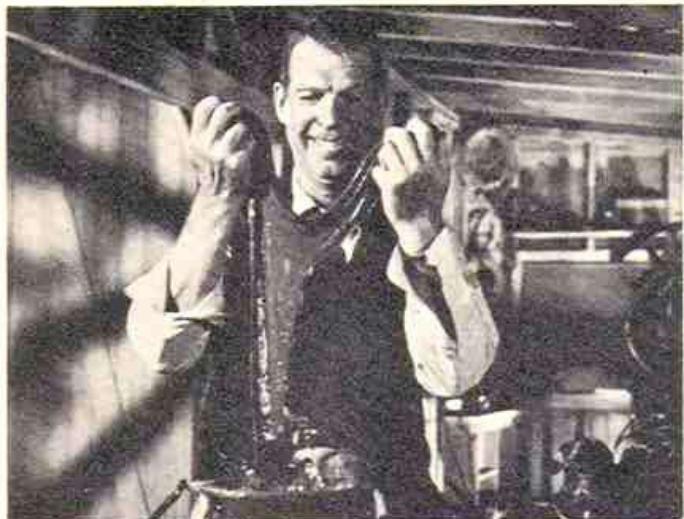
NO. 1199

Walt Disney's

THE ABSENT-MINDED PROFESSOR



THE ABSENT-MINDED PROFESSOR



Professor Brainard's discovery of an amazing new energy called "flubber" causes him to forget his wedding...for the third time.



While Ned is trying to prove to Betsy the unusual qualities of his discovery, a shrewd man sets out to get the formula at any cost.



Realizing that she has been wrong about the professor, Betsy decides to forgive him and help him recover his valuable property.



He has a hard time apologizing to Betsy, his jilted fiancee, and she has no use for the "putty" that stopped her wedding.



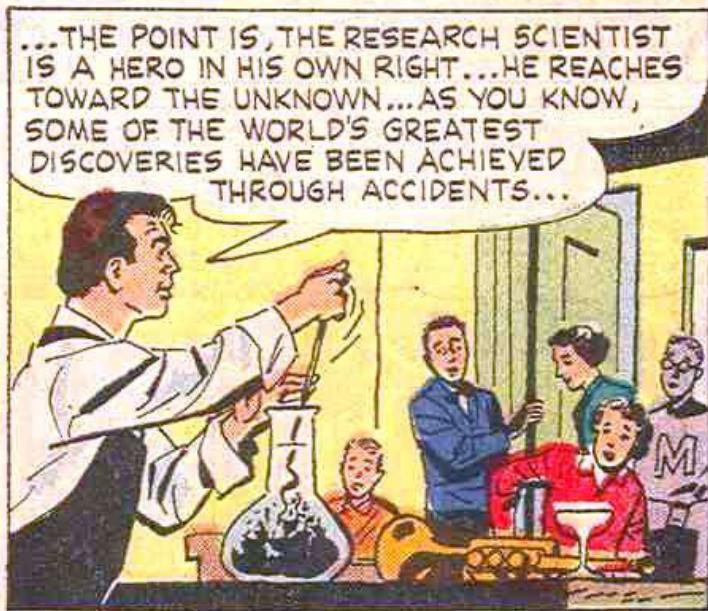
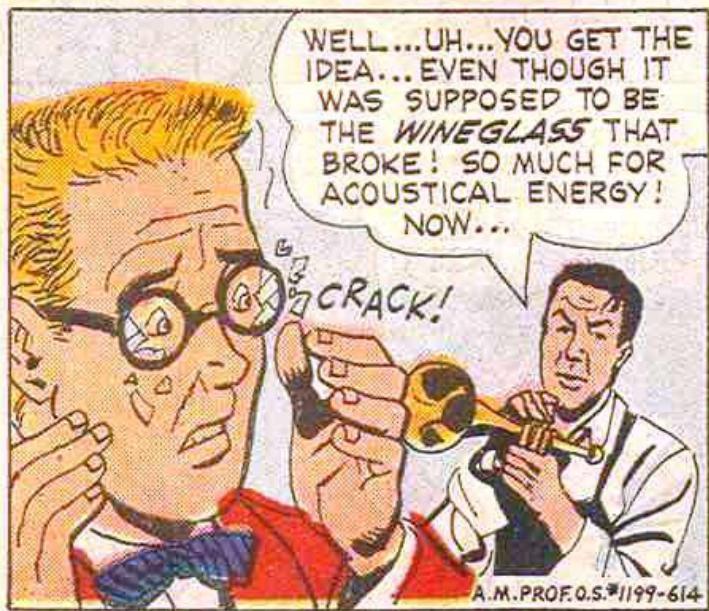
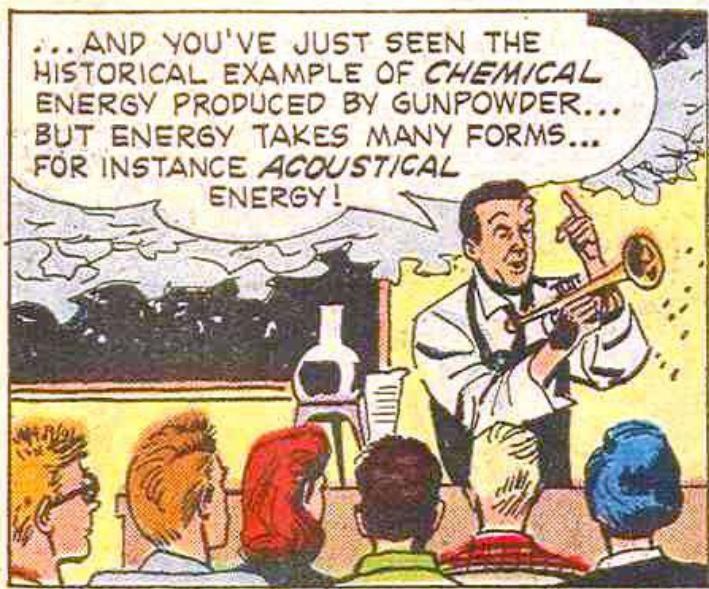
The Army, Navy, and Air Force hear about it and arrive to inspect it...only to find that it is missing.



After much difficulty, they set out in a flying Model-T, to take the special formula to a place where it will be safe.

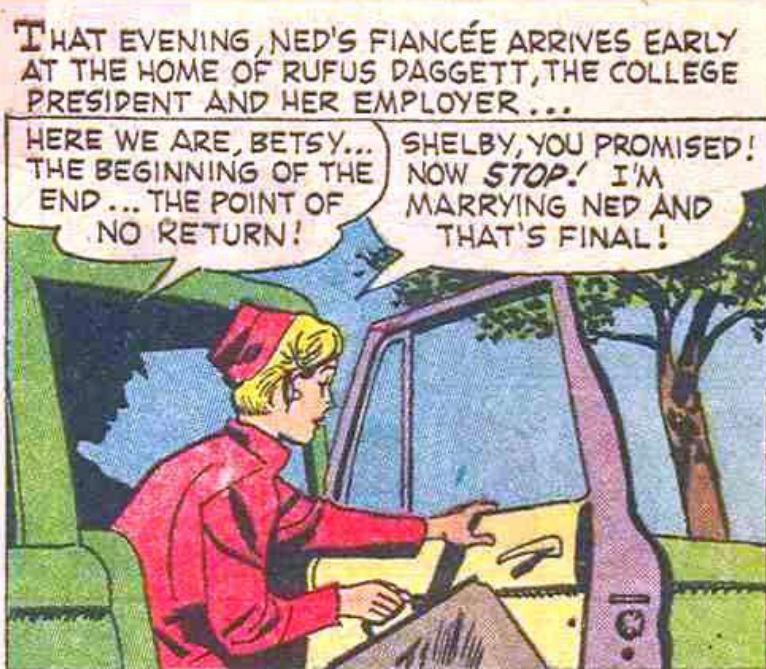
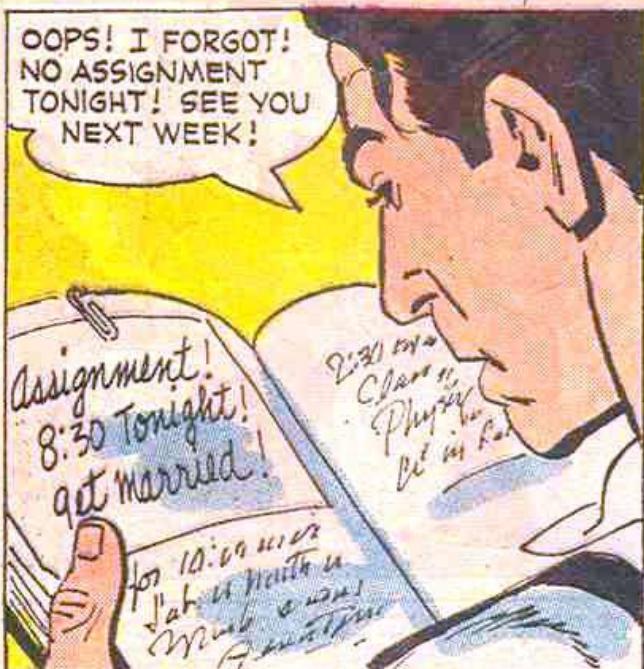
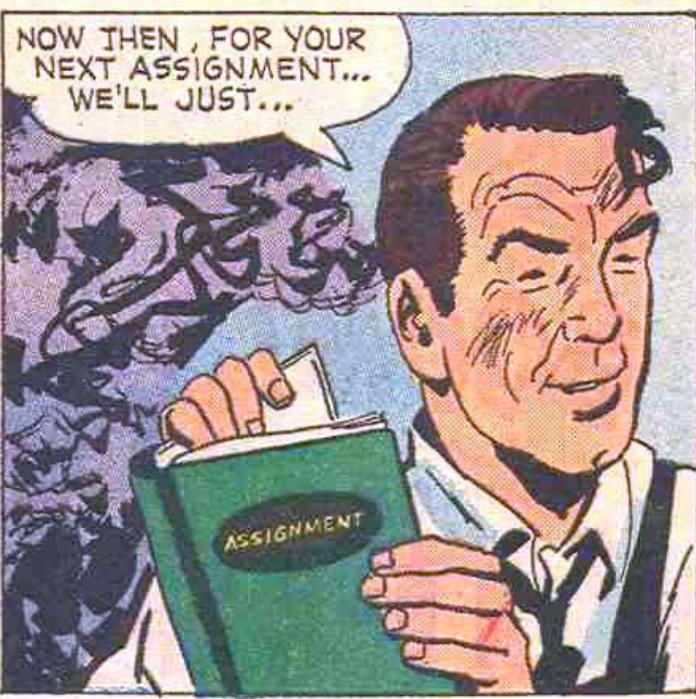
Walt Disney's

The ABSENT-MINDED PROFESSOR



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NOT YOU, SIR! IT'S MISS CARLISLE'S MISTAKE! I WAS JUST TRYING TO TALK HER OUT OF THIS HIPEOUS BLUNDER! PERHAPS IF YOU TALK TO HER, YOU...

I ONLY PERFORM THE SERVICES! I DON'T TAKE SIDES!

WELL... THE BRIDE HAS ARRIVED! AND THE BRIDEGROOM, TOO, I HOPE!

DON'T WORRY, PRESIDENT DAGGETT! NED'S HOUSEKEEPER PROMISED TO SEE THAT HE GETS HERE THIS TIME FOR SURE!



MEANWHILE, AT NED'S HOUSE...

PROFESSOR BRAINARD! IT'S TIME... THE WEDDING, REMEMBER?

JUST A FEW MORE MINUTES, MRS. CHATSWORTH...

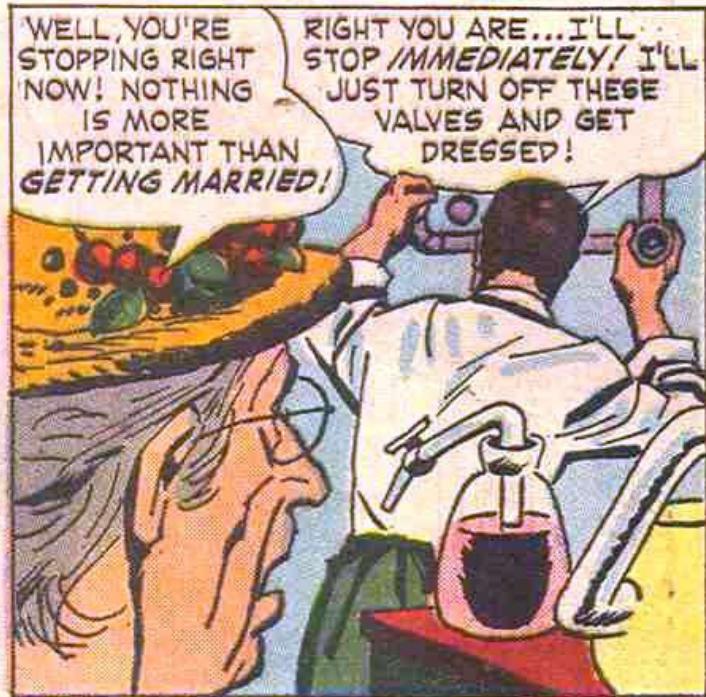


MERCIFUL GOODNESS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

TRYING TO UNLOCK THE SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE, MRS. CHATSWORTH... AND FAILING MISERABLY!

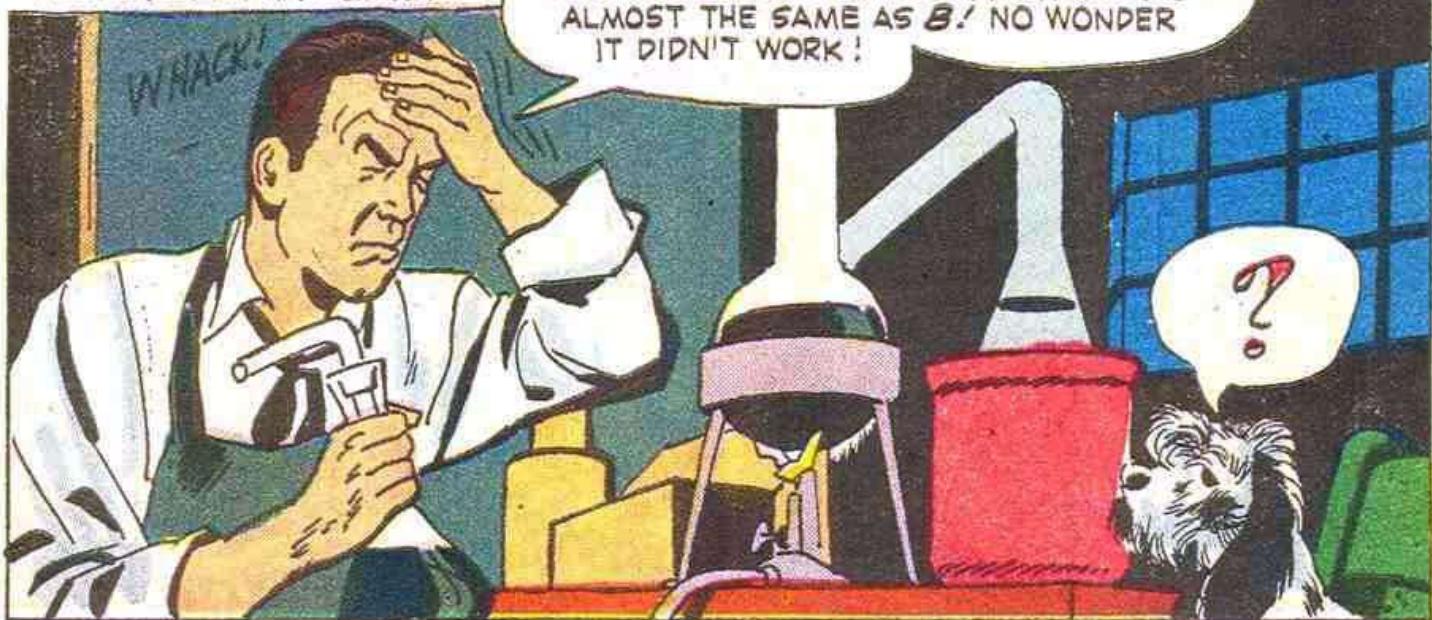
WELL, YOU'RE STOPPING RIGHT NOW! NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN GETTING MARRIED!

RIGHT YOU ARE... I'LL STOP IMMEDIATELY! I'LL JUST TURN OFF THESE VALVES AND GET DRESSED!



BUT MOMENTS AFTER THE
HOUSEKEEPER HAS GONE...

CHARLIE, WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME?
THE MOLECULAR CONFIGURATION OF A IS
ALMOST THE SAME AS B! NO WONDER
IT DIDN'T WORK!



PREOCCUPIED, NED PLUNGES
BACK TO WORK...

MISCALCULATION HAS
BEEN STARING ME IN
THE FACE FOR WEEKS...

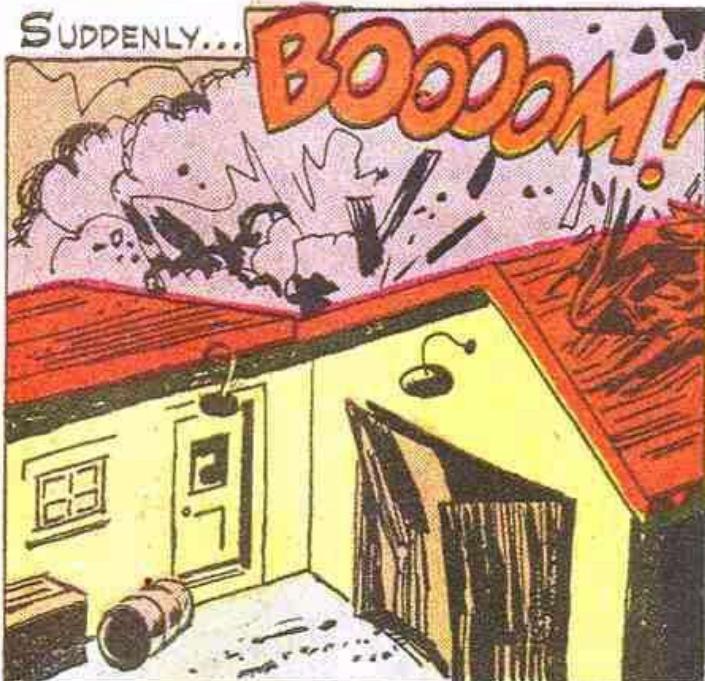


NOW WE'RE COOKING...
WE MAY BE IN BUSINESS
AFTER ALL!



SUDDENLY...

BOOOOM!



Time
8:30 sharp
get
married!



AT PRESIDENT PAGGETT'S
HOUSE, 8:30 COMES AND GOES...

HE MIGHT STILL SHOW UP...
YOU KNOW THE SAYING
ABOUT - THIRD TIME'S
THE ...



I SAY, THREE STRIKES
AND YOU'RE OUT! TAKE
ME HOME, SHELBY...

DARLING, I'M
YOURS TO
COMMAND!



SOMETIME LATER, NED
REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS...

WHAT...HAPPENED ???



WELL, THAT'S THE END OF THAT! I'LL
HAVE TO START ALL OVER AGAIN...AND
ALL THE MONTHS OF WORK...



DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE,
CHARLIE? DO YOU *SEE* IT?
IT... IT'S FLYING AROUND
THE ROOM!



A BLACK, GLUTINOUS SUBSTANCE SWELLS
OUT OF THE APPARATUS...

I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS...
BUT, I THINK WE'VE GOT...WE'VE
GOT *SOMETHING*!



FEELS KIND OF LIKE RUBBER...
WONDER IF IT WILL BOUNCE?



IT GOES FASTER AND FASTER! IT'S
GENERATING ITS OWN ENERGY! WE'VE
DISCOVERED A NEW KIND OF ENERGY...
WE'VE MADE A BREAKTHROUGH!



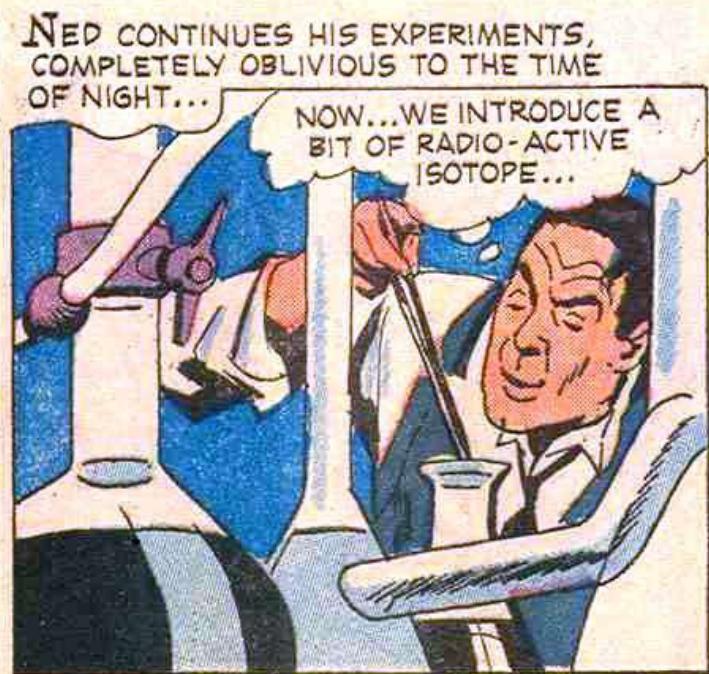
A FLYING RUBBER BALL...
FLYING RUBBER...WAIT
A MINUTE!



SO... SUBSTANCE X... WE WILL
HENCEFORTH CALL IT "FLUBBER"!

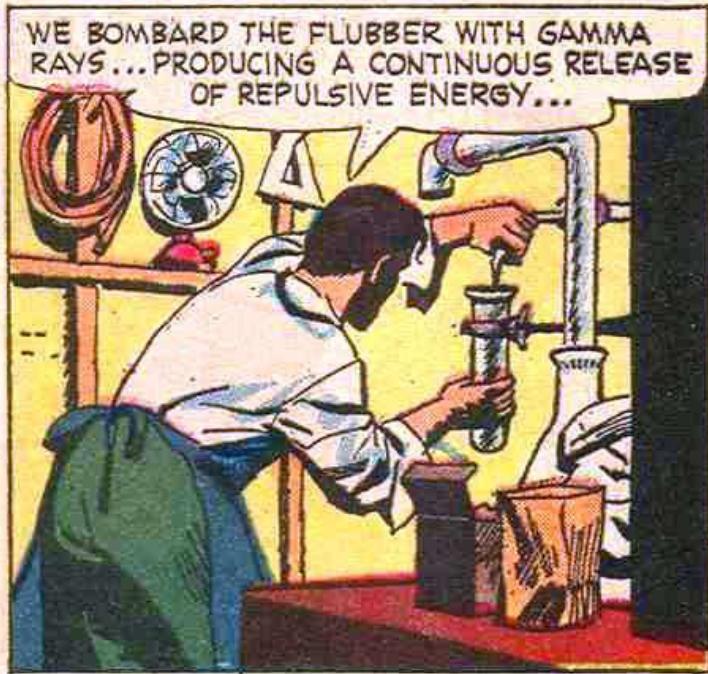


NED CONTINUES HIS EXPERIMENTS,
COMPLETELY OBLIVIOUS TO THE TIME
OF NIGHT...



NOW... WE INTRODUCE A
BIT OF RADIO-ACTIVE
ISOTOPE...

WE BOMBARD THE FLUBBER WITH GAMMA
RAYS... PRODUCING A CONTINUOUS RELEASE
OF REPULSIVE ENERGY...



AND SOON...

PERFECT CONTROL ...
LOOK... IT RISES ...
LIGHT AS A FEATHER...



AND BY OPERATING THIS CONTROL,
IT SETTLES EASILY...



THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT, NED BRAINARD
CONTINUES HIS WORK AND IN THE MORNING...

PROFESSOR! WHAT IN THE
WORLD ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT ABOUT THE
WEDDING?



STILL TIME... IT'S ONLY FIVE
MINUTES TO EIGHT AND...

YES... EIGHT
IN THE
MORNING!



OH, NOOOOO! I'VE
DONE IT AGAIN!



BUT BETSY WILL UNDERSTAND... WHEN
SHE HEARS I'VE DISCOVERED FLUBBER,
SHE'LL BE THE HAPPIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD!

THAT POOR,
POOR GIRL!



BUT WHEN NED SEES BETSY...

NED BRAINARD, YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF NERVE COMING IN HERE! AFTER STANDING ME UP FOR THE THIRD TIME AND...

BUT I CAN EXPLAIN!

NED HAS TROUBLE BUT HE FINISHES HIS EXPLANATION...

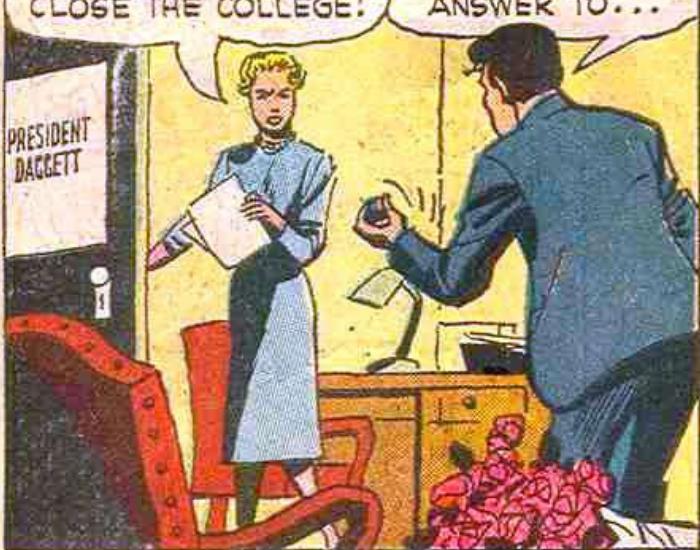
...AND THEY ACT ONLY IN A DIRECTION OPPOSITE THE FORCE WHICH TRIGGERED THE MOLECULAR CHANGE! DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW WHY...

IF YOU DON'T MIND, I HAVE IMPORTANT WORK TO DO!



MR. HAWK HAS REFUSED TO EXTEND THE TIME ON THE LOAN... HE MAY CLOSE THE COLLEGE!

BUT THIS CAN SAVE THE COLLEGE! FLUBBER IS THE ANSWER TO...



I'LL PICK YOU UP TONIGHT FOR THE BASKETBALL GAME!
I'LL...

SLAM!

PRES
DAG



IN THE LIMOUSINE OF ALONZO HAWK...

YOU'RE KIDDING, AREN'T YOU, POP? ABOUT CLOSING THE COLLEGE AND TURNING IT INTO A HOUSING TRACT?

THE LITTLE COLLEGES ARE SINKING FAST, SON... I'VE GOT TO BE PRACTICAL!



MR. HAWKS, WHAT ABOUT THE GAME WITH RUTLAND TONIGHT? HOW MUCH YOU WANNA GO FOR?

WHATEVER THE TRAFFIC WILL BEAR... SAY... ABOUT EIGHT OR TEN THOUSAND!

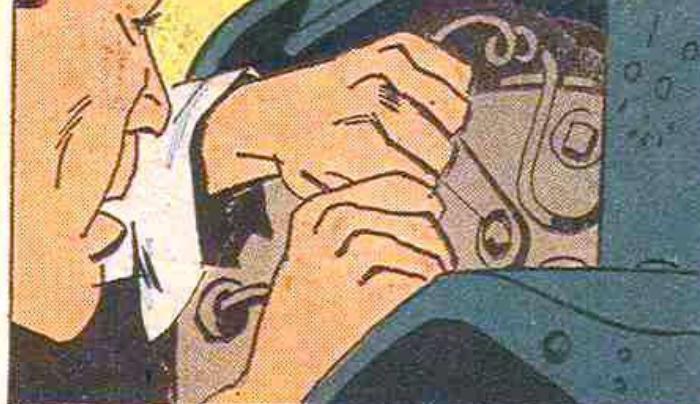


YOU'RE BETTING ON MEDFIELD?

NO, BOY... AGAINST THEM! NOBODY KNOWS YOU'VE BEEN TAKEN OUT OF THE GAME BECAUSE YOU FLUNKED BRAINARD'S EXAM... AND I'LL GET MY ODDS BEFORE THEY FIND OUT!

MEANWHILE, IN NED BRAINARD'S GARAGE...

THERE WE ARE... NOW WE'LL SEE HOW THIS FLUBBER WORKS IN MY MODEL-T!



THIS IS OUR COVER-UP BOX, CHARLIE... JUST IN CASE SOMEBODY GETS NOSY ABOUT A MODEL-T THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY NOISE!

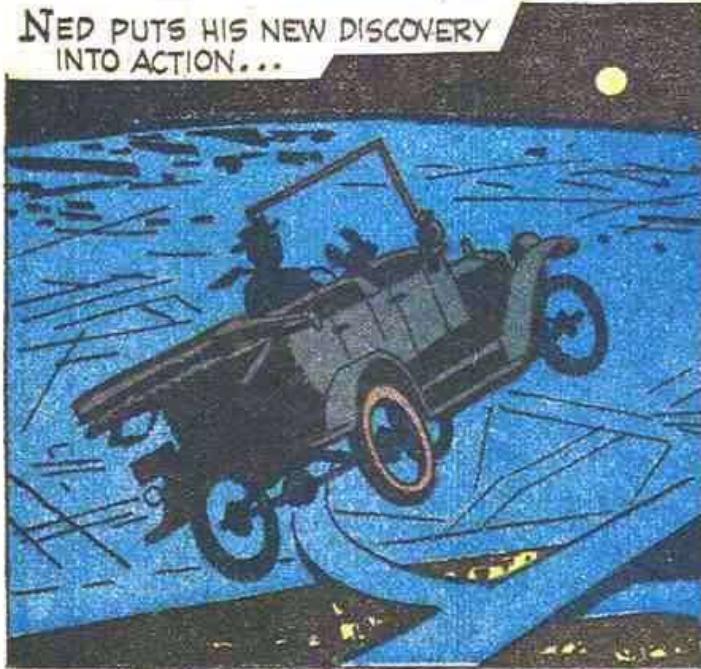


YARK! YARK!

IT WORKS, CHARLIE!
WE'RE FLYING!



NED PUTS HIS NEW DISCOVERY
INTO ACTION...



EVERY TEST EXCEEDS HIS WILDEST DREAMS...

IT'S FANTASTIC! IT WILL
REVOLUTIONIZE
EVERYTHING!



NED COMES IN FOR A LANDING IN
FRONT OF BETSY'S HOUSE...



BUT NED IS TOO LATE... BETSY...THIS IS
THE BIGGEST DAY
OF OUR LIVES...BETSY,
WAIT...DON'T....I....



LATER,
NED
JOINS
BETSY
AND
SHELBY
AT THE
GAME...

I'M AFRAID THIS
JUST ISN'T
EVERYTHING,
MEDFIELD'S NIGHT!
EVERYTHING,
MY DEAR...



I KNOW... BUT DEFEAT LIKE
THIS IS RIDICULOUS!

MEDFIELD → 3
RUTLAND → 30



WHY DON'T YOU GO OVER
TO THE RUTLAND SIDE
WHERE YOU BELONG?

YOU KEEP
QUIET, NED
BRAINARD!



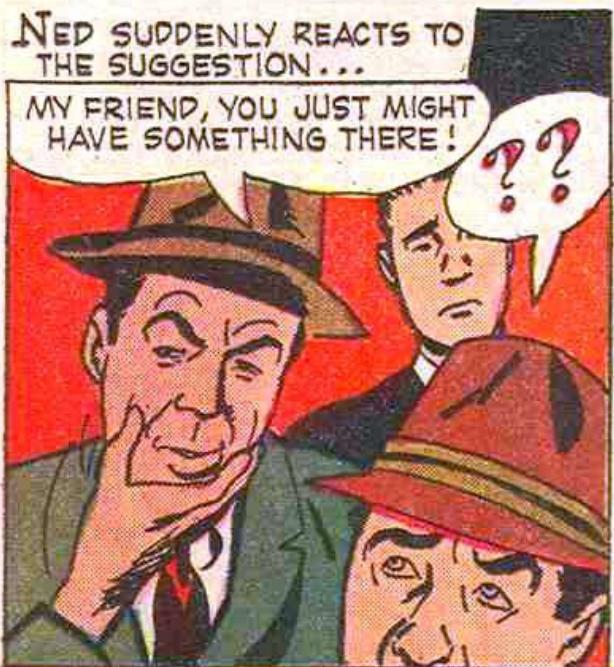
IT'S NOT FAIR!
OUR TEAM
CAN'T EVEN
REACH THE
BALL!

YES... POOR LITTLE CHAPS
... I'D SAY THEY NEED
SOME KIND OF A LIFT!
MAYBE SOME ELEVATOR
HEELS!



NED SUDDENLY REACTS TO
THE SUGGESTION...

MY FRIEND, YOU JUST MIGHT
HAVE SOMETHING THERE!



NED SLIPS INTO THE LOCKER ROOM...

THIS IS ONE JOB
I'LL HAVE TO DO
IN A HURRY!



HE FLIES HOME QUICKLY IN
HIS MODEL-T...

HOPE I'M NOT
TOO LATE,
CHARLIE!

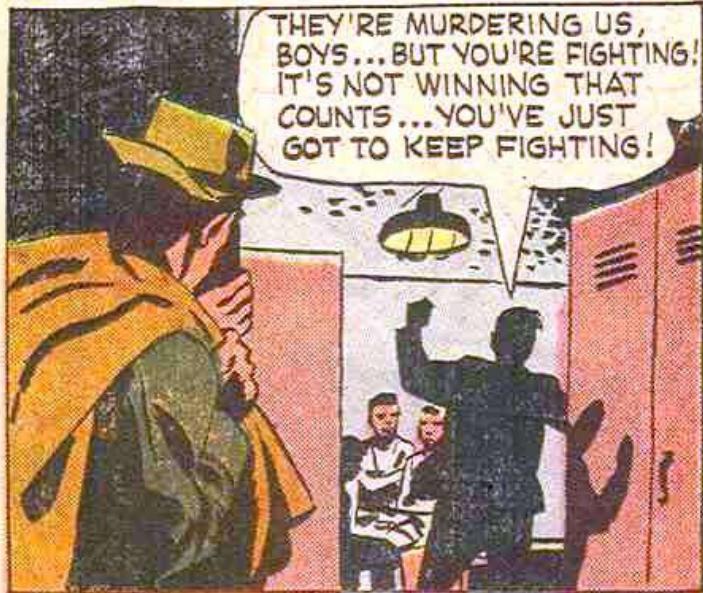


IN HIS LAB, NED APPLIES
"FLUBBER" TO THE SHOES...

SST!
SSSS



HE ARRIVES BACK AT THE LOCKER ROOM DURING THE HALF-TIME "PEP TALK" ...



AS THE PLAYERS LISTEN TO THE COACH, NED SILENTLY SUBSTITUTES THE SHOES...



A TEAM THAT WON'T BE BEATEN, CAN'T BE BEATEN... RIGHT ...PROFESSOR?

UH... YES! I... I WAS JUST THINKING THE SAME THING!



THESE BOYS HAVE TO GO OUT THERE WITH DRIVE AND BOUNCE! I REPEAT ... BOUNCE! YOU CAN BE EIGHT, NINE ... EVEN TEN FEET TALL IF YOU HAVE THAT OLD BOUNCE! THE SKY'S THE LIMIT!

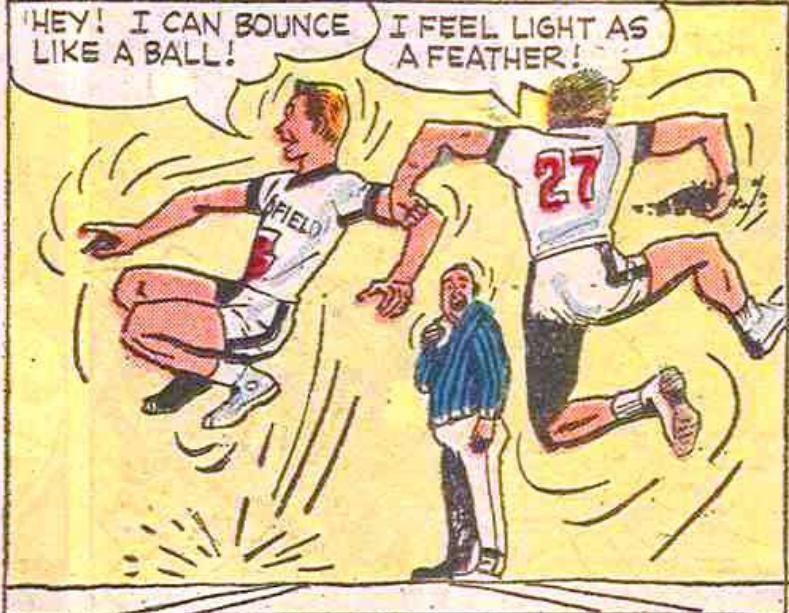


WHATEVER YOU PUT INTO IT, YOU'RE GOING TO GET TWICE AS MUCH OUT OF IT! NOW - GET OUT THERE, AND — HOP TO IT!

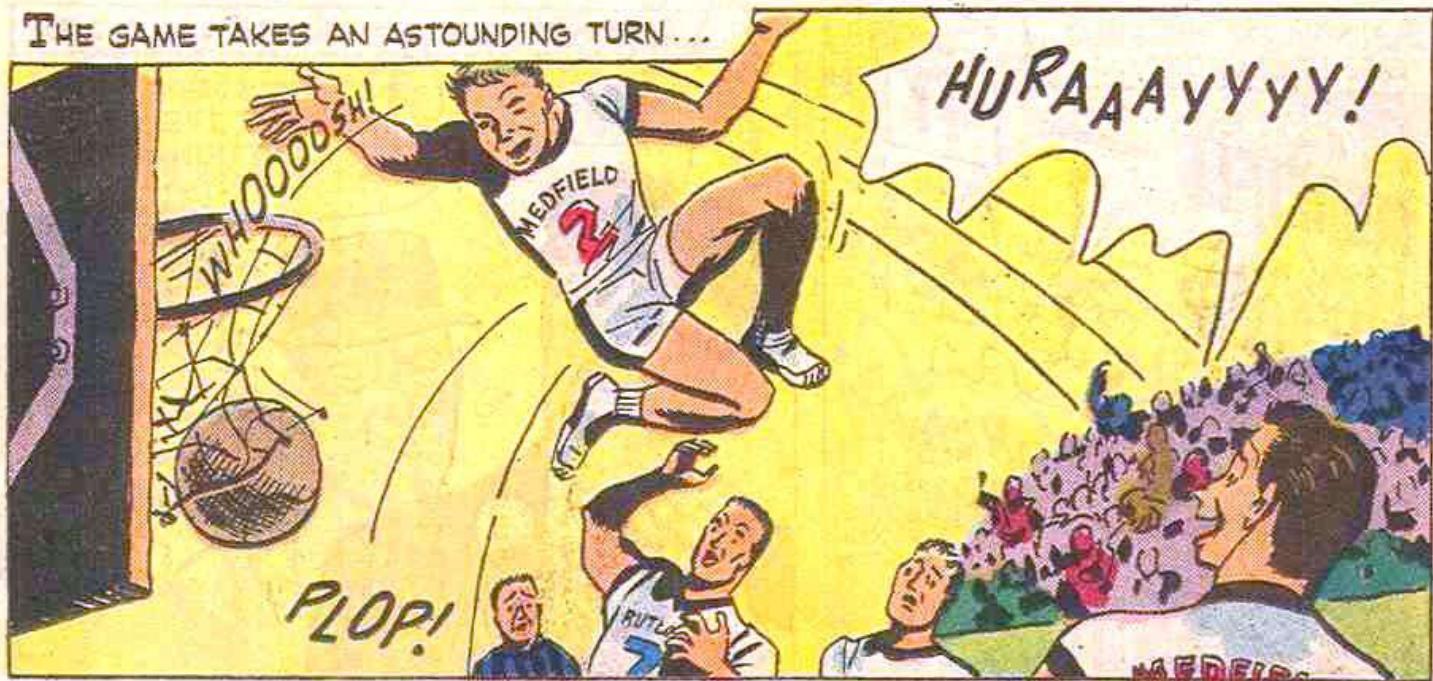


AS THE MEDFIELD TEAM COMES BACK ONTO THE COURT, A SURPRISING THING HAPPENS...

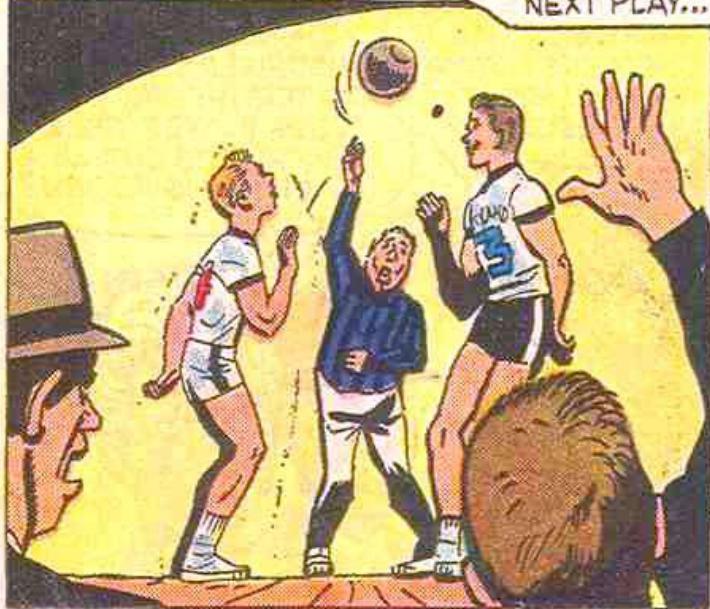
'HEY! I CAN BOUNCE LIKE A BALL!' 'I FEEL LIGHT AS A FEATHER!'



THE GAME TAKES AN ASTOUNDING TURN...



THE SURPRISED CROWD TENSES FOR THE NEXT PLAY...



AND NO LESS SURPRISED IS THE MEDFIELD CENTER...



THE RUTLAND PLAYERS CANNOT MATCH THE "BOUNCE" OF MEDFIELD'S TEAM...



JUST LOOK AT THEM! I'M FLABBERGASTED! FLUBBERGASTED IS A BETTER WORD!



AND WHEN THE FINAL GUN IS SOUNDED...

47

MEDFIELD

46

RUTLAND

BANG!

HURRAY!
WE WON!

I... I DON'T BELIEVE IT! I MUST BE... DREAMING!

I'M SORRY ABOUT THE MONEY YOU LOST, POP... BUT THEY WERE SURE TERRIFIC! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!

PLEASE, BETSY... LISTEN TO ME... I DID THIS FOR YOU AND...

DID WHAT FOR ME?

PARKING

WELL, YOU SAW THE WAY OUR BOYS PLAYED... THE REASON WAS MY DISCOVERY! THAT'S WHAT MADE IT POSSIBLE!

YOU MEAN YOU'RE TRYING TO TAKE CREDIT FOR MEDFIELD'S VICTORY? AFTER THE WAY THOSE BOYS PLAYED THEIR HEARTS OUT... FIGHTING TO WIN?

PRETTY SMALL, BRAINARD! THAT'S ALL I CAN SAY... PRETTY SMALL!

TAKE ME HOME, SHELBY! I DETEST PEOPLE WHO TRY TO TAKE CREDIT FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S GLORY!

WAIT... I...

EXIT

ZOOM!

A SHORT TIME LATER...

GOOD NIGHT,
MY LOVE!

GOOD NIGHT,
SHELBY!



WATCHING DOWN THE STREET...

YOU ALWAYS THOUGHT OF ME AS
A LEVELHEADED, KINDLY
PROFESSOR, DIDN'T YOU,
CHARLIE? NOW YOU'LL
SEE WHAT A WOMAN
CAN DO TO YOU...



I'M A DESPERATE MAN! AND DESPERATE
MEN DO DESPERATE THINGS...!
LIGHTS OFF! SOUND OFF!



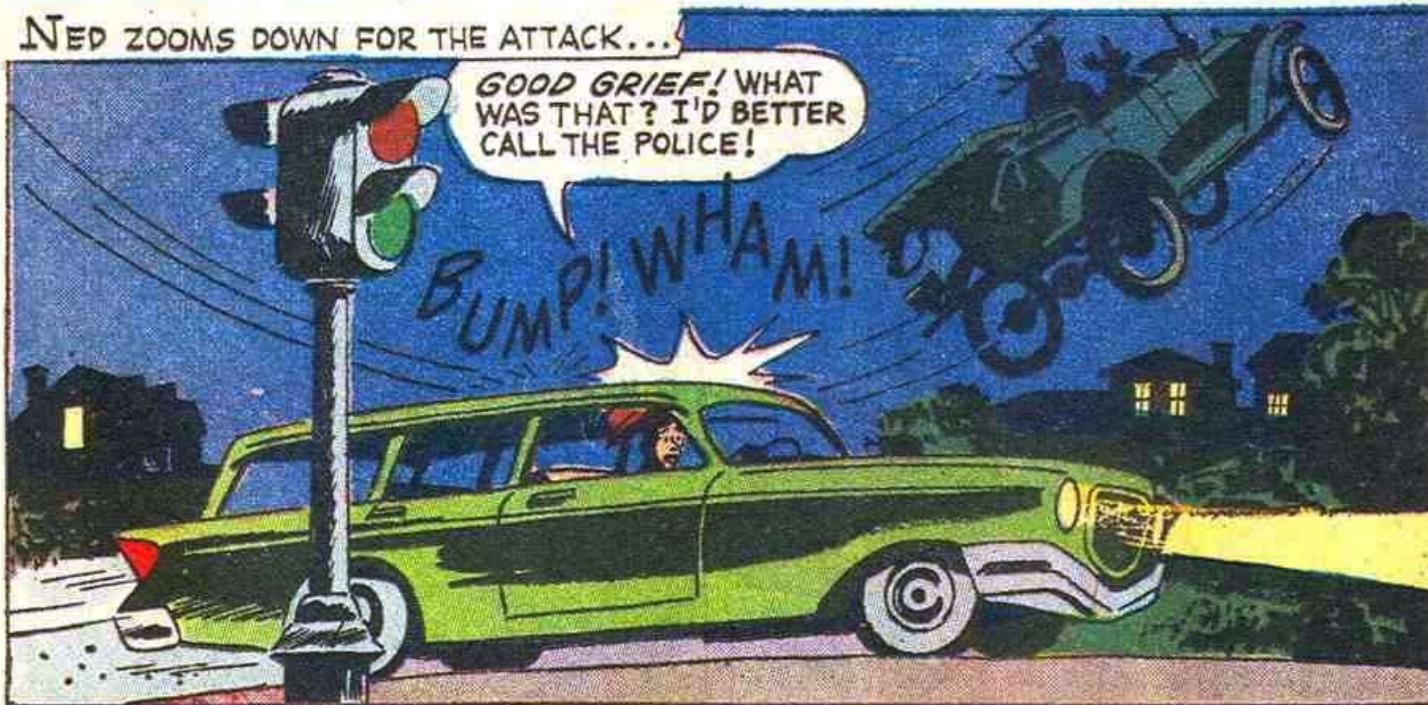
SILENTLY, NED FLIES ABOVE SHELBY'S
CAR...

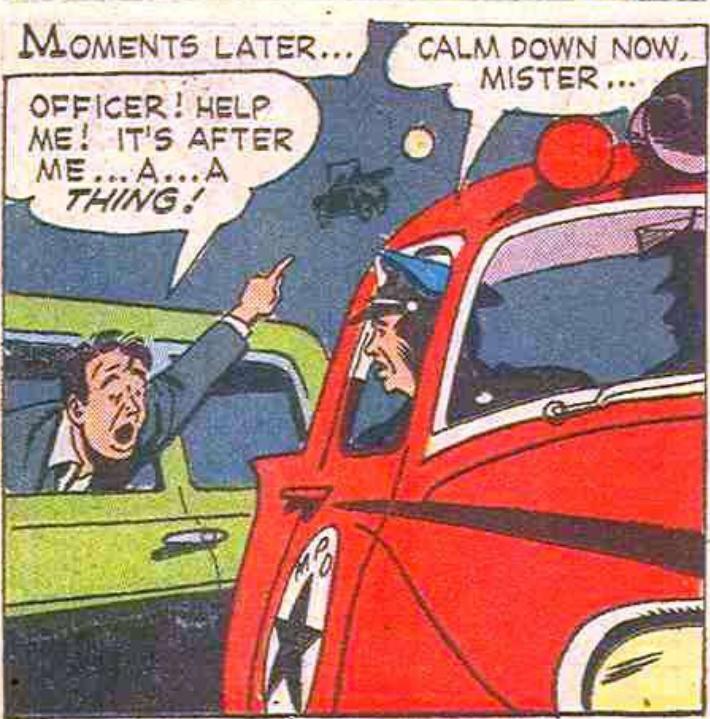


NED ZOOMS DOWN FOR THE ATTACK...

GOOD GRIEF! WHAT
WAS THAT? I'D BETTER
CALL THE POLICE!

BUMP! WHAM! BOOM!





SHORTLY...

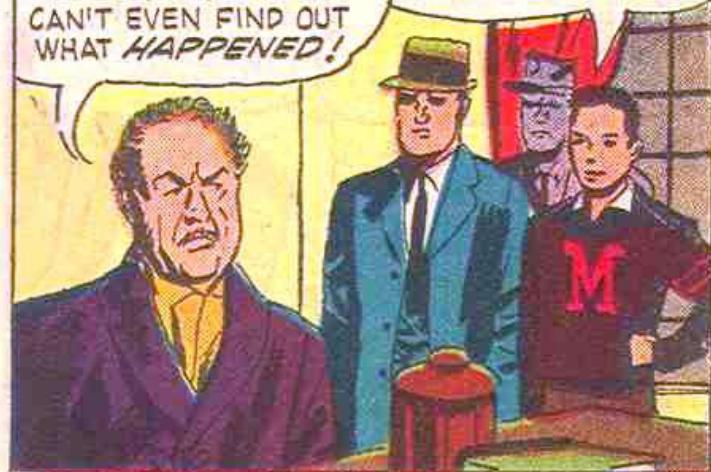
NOW, THEN...WE HAVE A LITTLE BALLOON HERE WE WANT YOU TO BLOW UP FOR US... NOW BE A NICE BOY AND DO AS WE SAY!

AND WE'LL SEE THAT THE BIG, BAD NAUGHTY THING DOESN'T BOTHER YOU ANY MORE...

AT THAT MOMENT...

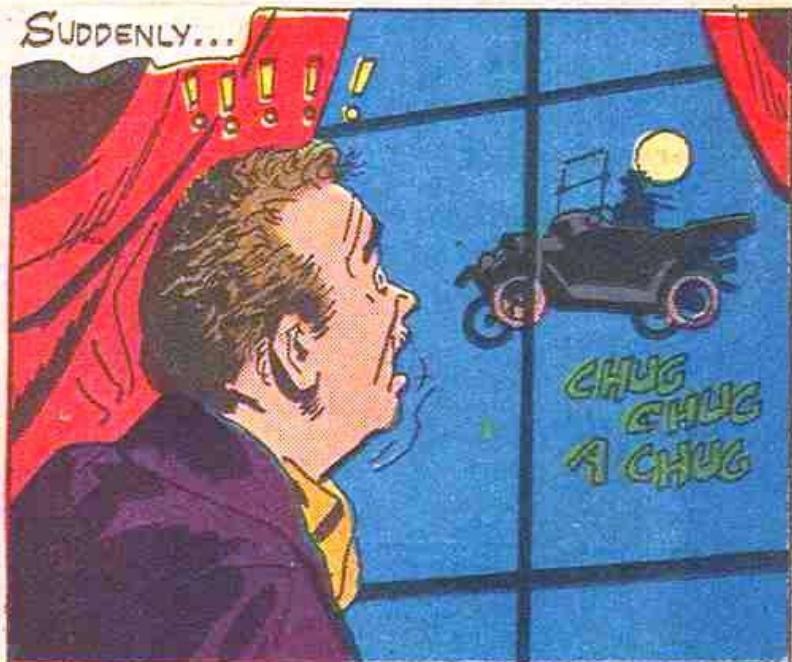
YOU BOYS ARE A REAL COMFORT TO ME... I TAKE A TEN-THOUSAND DOLLAR BATH AND YOU CAN'T EVEN FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED!

IT MUST HAVE BEEN THAT PEP TALK PROFESSOR BRAINARD GAVE THE TEAM! THAT'S WHEN IT STARTED!



A PEP TALK? WHAT ON EARTH COULD THAT MAN POSSIBLY SAY THAT WOULD...

SUDDENLY...



BIFF, DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?

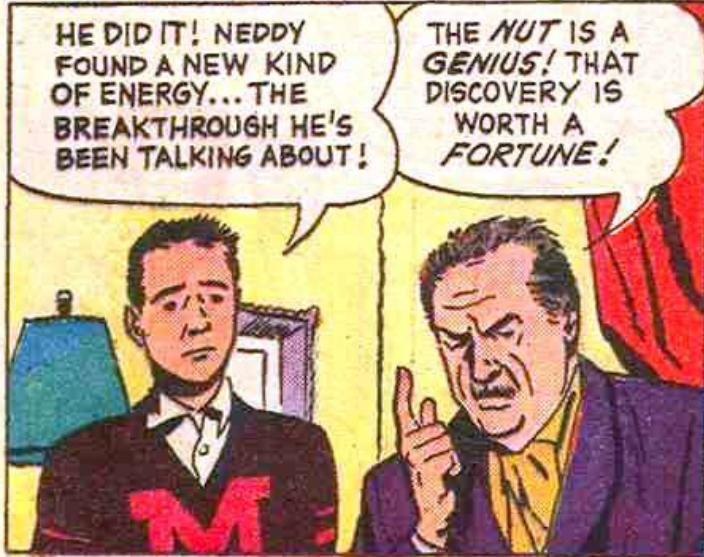
SURE, POP... IT'S JUST OLD NEDDY THE NUT, FLYING IN HIS MODEL-T...



HE'S JUST FLYING IN HIS MODEL-T ???



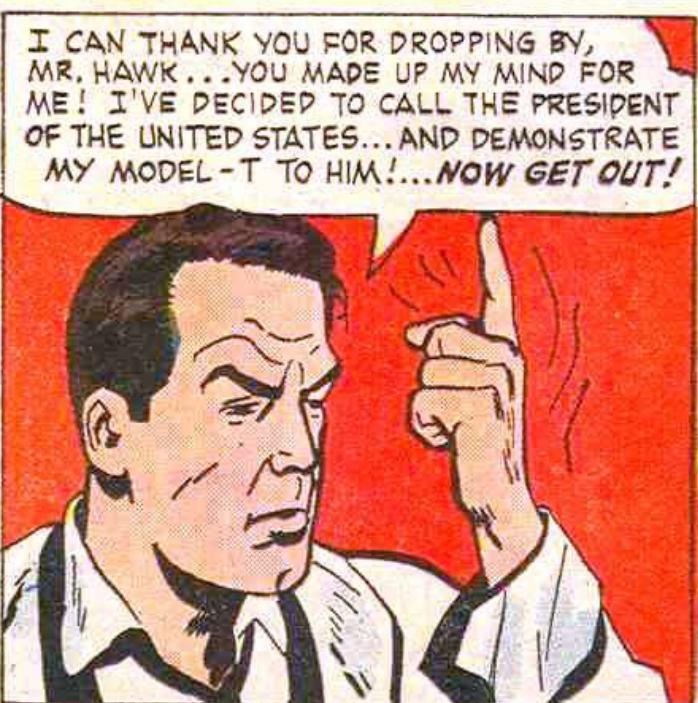
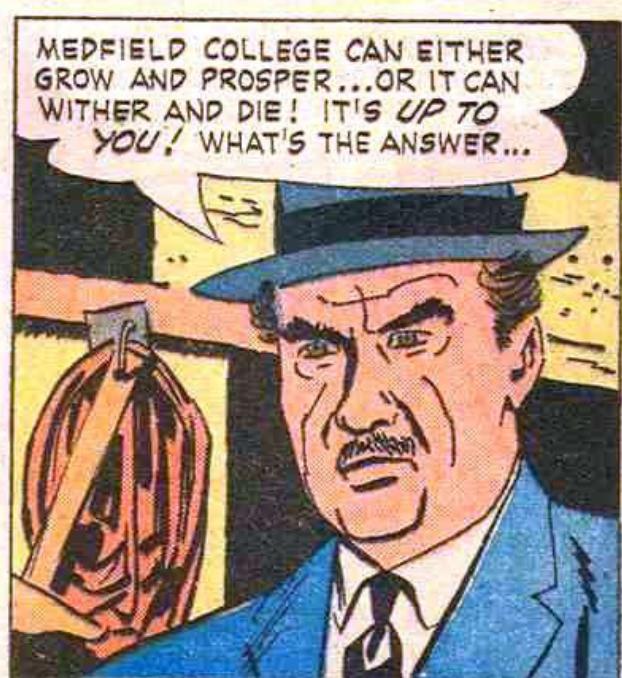
AND FROM THE WINDOW OF THEIR HOME, BIFF AND HIS FATHER WATCH AS NED DISAPPEARS IN HIS FLYING CAR...



ALONZO HAWK WASTES NO TIME...

VISUALIZE, IF YOU CAN, PROFESSOR... A NEW MEDFIELD COLLEGE! ONE ENTIRE BUILDING DEVOTED TO SCIENCE! TWO, IF YOU LIKE!

SOUNDS FINE, MR. HAWK... BUT WHERE IS THE MONEY COMING FROM?



BOY, YOU'RE GOING TO BE ALL
RIGHT! YOU'RE ME ALL OVER
AGAIN... YESSIR, YOU'RE GOING
TO BE ALL RIGHT!

LATER, IN A PENTAGON CONFERENCE ROOM
IN THE NATION'S CAPITOL...

EXCUSE ME, SIR... A PROFESSOR BRAINARD ON
THE PHONE... HE WANTED TO TALK TO THE
PRESIDENT AND THEY REFERRED HIM HERE
... SOMETHING ABOUT AN INVENTION...

I'LL TAKE IT!

YES, PROFESSOR... YOU HAVE, EH?
A KIND OF ANTI-GRAVITY, EH?

SOME PROFESSOR FROM
MEDFIELD COLLEGE...
SAYS HE'S CRACKED
THE ANTI-GRAVITY
PROBLEM IN HIS
OWN GARAGE!

WE'VE BEEN
WORKING ON THAT
FOR YEARS... HAVEN'T
MADE A START IN
THE PROBLEM!

PROBABLY
SOME
CRACKPOT!

I UNDERSTAND, PROFESSOR...
WELL, YOU JUST WRITE US A
NICE LETTER ALL ABOUT IT
AND WE'LL LOOK INTO IT!

OBVIOUSLY
NONSENSE!

I'VE GOT
TO BEAT
THE ARMY
TO THIS
ONE!

I'M FLYING TO
MEDFIELD
RIGHT AWAY!
I'LL BEAT THE
NAVY!

THE AIR FORCE
MUST GET TO
THAT PROFESSOR
FIRST!

THAT NIGHT, IN THE PARKING LOT OUTSIDE THE MEDFIELD GYMNASIUM, WHERE A DANCE IS BEING HELD...

THE PROFESSOR'S INSIDE AT THE DANCE...

LET'S SWITCH THESE CARS AND GET OUT OF HERE!

AT THE LOCAL AIRPORT...

TAXI!

TAXI!

TAXI!

AND LATER...

RIGHT THIS WAY, GENTLEMEN... IT CERTAINLY WAS A SURPRISE HAVING YOU ALL COME DOWN FROM WASHINGTON TO SEE ME! I'D GIVEN UP GETTING ANY ACTION ON THIS THING!

MIGHT AS WELL RIDE TOGETHER, GENTLEMEN... I'M THE ONLY TAXI LEAVIN' RIGHT NOW!

TAKE US TO PROFESSOR NED BRAINARD!

HERE WE ARE... AND KEEP IN MIND THIS IS ONLY A PRIMITIVE APPLICATION OF MY DISCOVERY! I ONLY USE IT TO SHOW THE PRINCIPLE OF THE LEVITATION ABILITIES OF MY DISCOVERY!

GET A GOOD GRIP, GENTLEMEN... AND WATCH AS I CONTROL THE AUTOMOBILE...

CLACK!

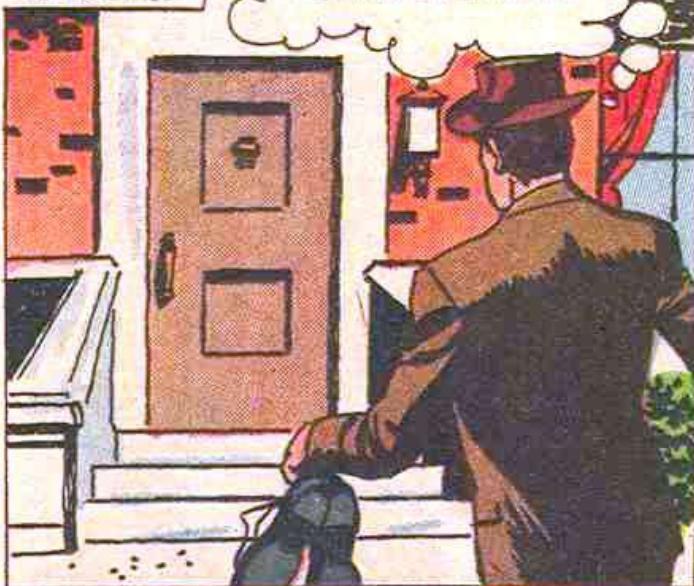


NED GETS
AN IDEA...

TWO CAN PLAY AT
HAWK'S GAME...

AND SOON...

IT'S FLUBBER,
MR. HAWK! DON'T
YOU SEE? ONLY
EIGHT PERCENT OF
THE WORLD'S
POPULATION BUYS
CARS...EVERYBODY
BUYS SHOES!



'IN MY WAREHOUSE...
NOW TELL ME HOW TO
STOP... PLEASE!

LATER, MR. HAWK...
AFTER I GET MY
CAR BACK!

BIFF! DO SOMETHING!
HELP ME!

HEY, THAT'S
PRETTY NEAT!
HOW DO YOU
DO IT, POP?



NEVER MIND HOW I
DO IT, NITWIT! CALL
THE FIRE
DEPARTMENT!

OKAY! OKAY!
DON'T BLOW
A GASKET!

SOON... HURRY! GET ME DOWN
FROM HERE!



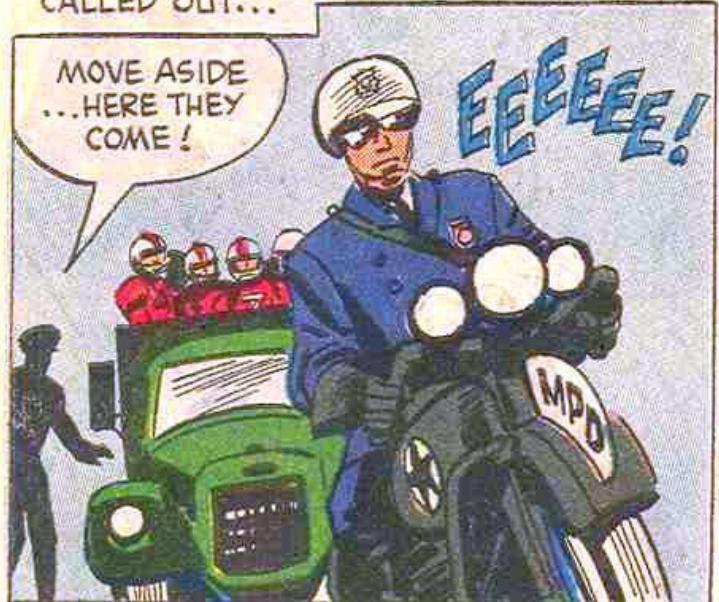
ALL THE SAME, I WISH YOU'D
COME OVER, MARY LOU... POP'S
PUTTIN' ON A GREAT SHOW!
REALLY SOMETHIN' TO SEE!

WE'RE READY FOR YOU, MR. HAWK...
RELAX... COME DOWN SITTING...
NOT FEET FIRST!





SOON, THE MEDFIELD FOOTBALL TEAM IS CALLED OUT...



THE PLAYERS GO INTO A HUDDLE...



POP! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

THE WAREHOUSE... COME ON! GET THESE SHOES OFF ME AND LET'S MOVE!

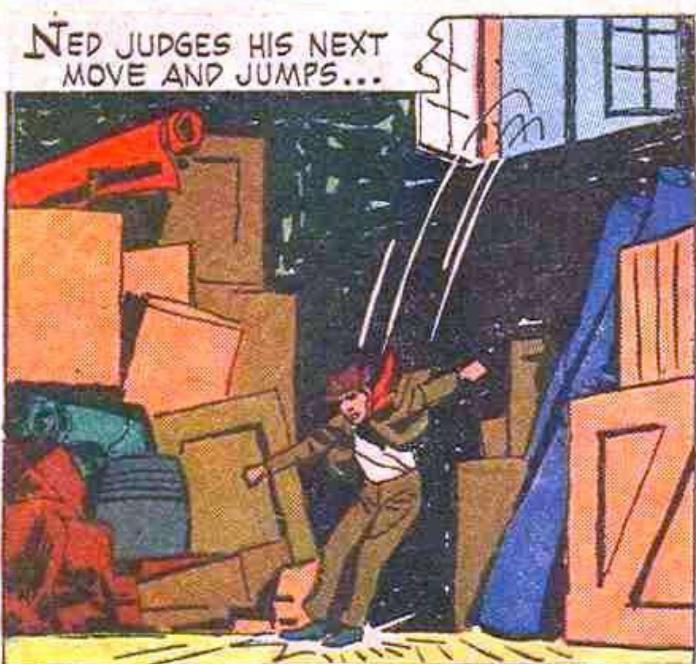


MEANWHILE, AT ALONZO HAWK'S WAREHOUSE...

TWO MEN INSIDE...

THOSE WINDOWS THERE... BUT THEY'RE ON THE SECOND STORY!

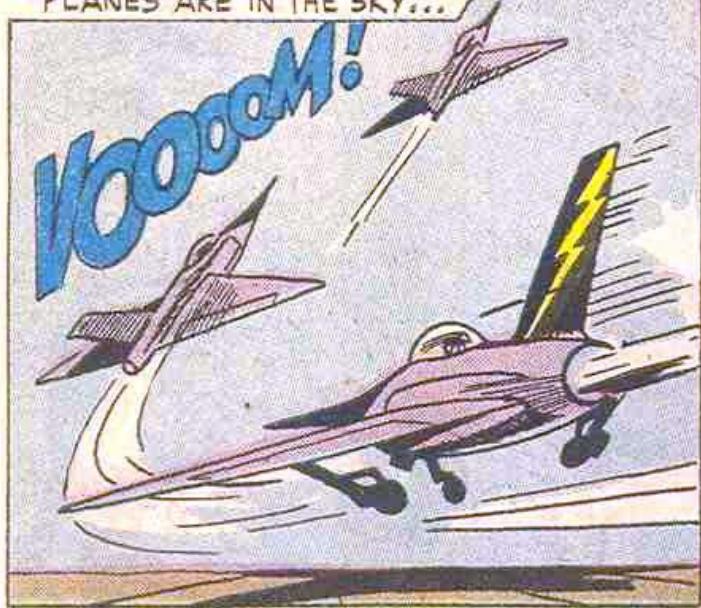




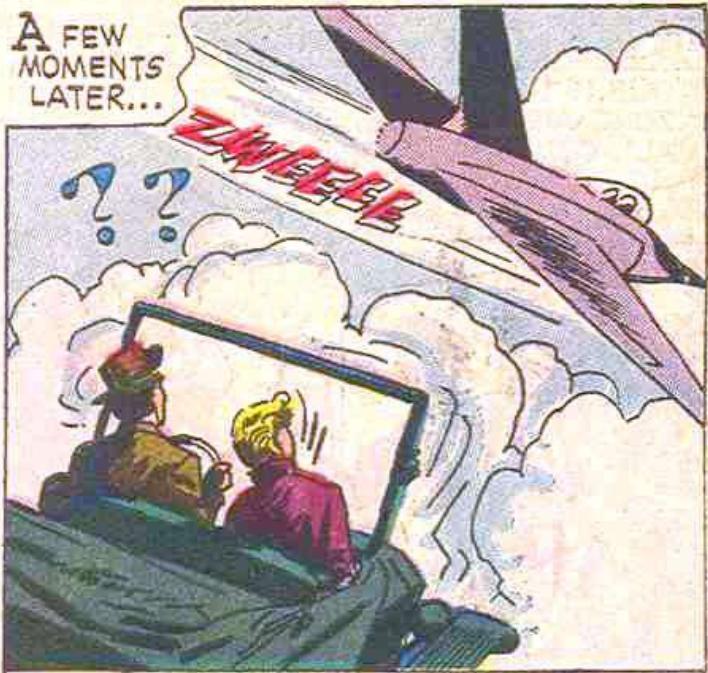




WITHIN MINUTES, FLEET INTERCEPTOR PLANES ARE IN THE SKY...

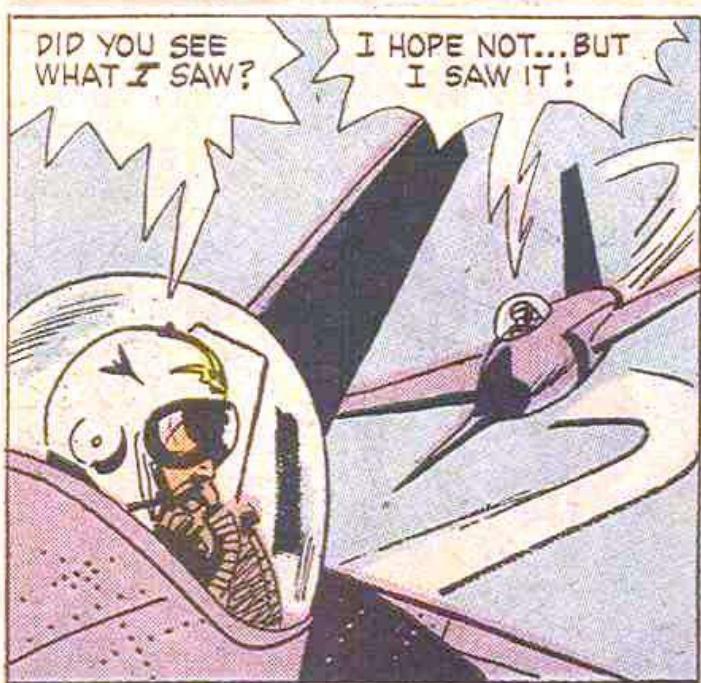


A FEW MOMENTS LATER...



DID YOU SEE WHAT I SAW?

I HOPE NOT... BUT I SAW IT!



AND WHEN THE REPORT COMES THROUGH...

YOU SAW A WHAT???

A MODEL-T TOURING CAR SIR ... ONLY IT'S FLYING!



THE REPORT IS PASSED TO THE COLONEL...

CUT THE CLOWNING, CAPTAIN... THIS IS NO TIME FOR JOKES!

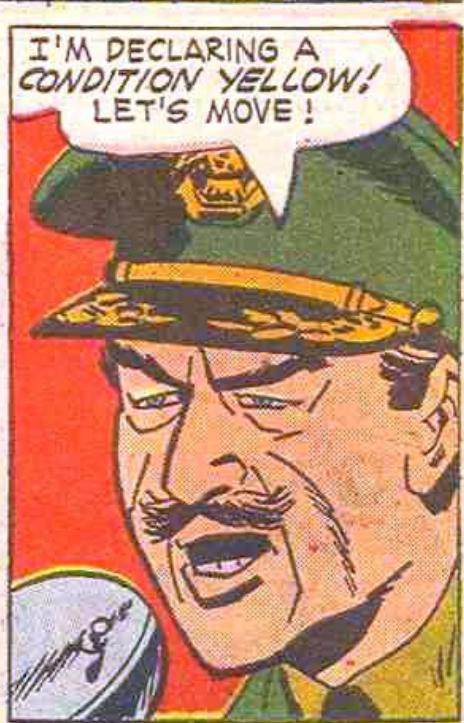


AND THEN TO THE GENERAL...

A FLYING WHAT???



I'M DECLARING A CONDITION YELLOW! LET'S MOVE!



THE GENERAL GOES INTO ACTION...

THIS IS THE COMMANDING OFFICER,
ZONE AIR DEFENSE, SPEAKING ON
ALL COMMERCIAL AND MILITARY
WAVE LENGTHS!



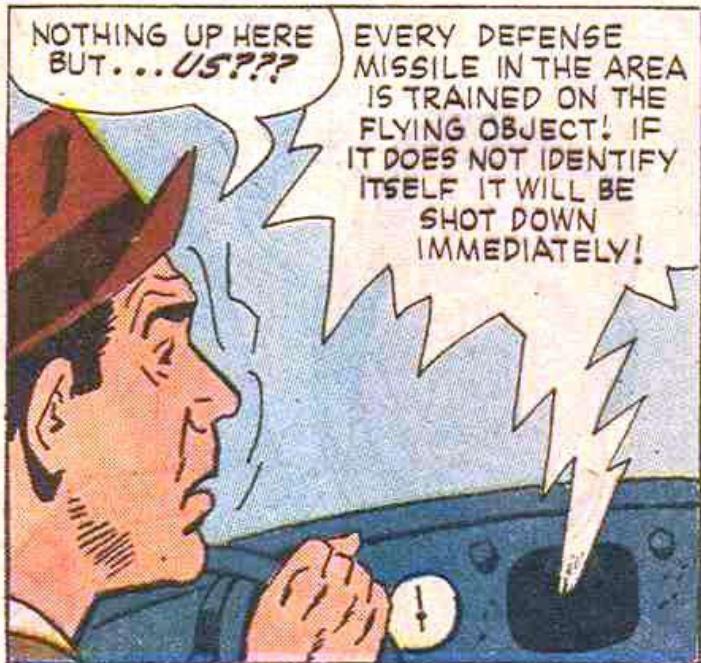
ATTENTION... THERE IS AN
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT
OVER THE CITY...

I DON'T SEE
ANYTHING,
DO YOU, NED?



NOTHING UP HERE
BUT... US? ??

EVERY DEFENSE
MISSILE IN THE AREA
IS TRAINED ON THE
FLYING OBJECT! IF
IT DOES NOT IDENTIFY
ITSELF IT WILL BE
SHOT DOWN
IMMEDIATELY!



WE'RE FRIENDLY... DON'T
SHOOT! WE LOVE EVERY-
BODY! I'M AN AMERICAN
... LOOK... MY CREDIT
CARDS!

BEGIN
COUNTDOWN...
TEN...NINE...
EIGHT...
SEVEN...



SIX...
FIVE...

WAIT! I CAN SEE IT! IT'S...
IT'S THAT PROFESSOR...
HE WAS TELLING
THE TRUTH!



THE COUNTDOWN IS STOPPED...

BRAINARD, CAN YOU HEAR
ME? IF YOU CAN, HERE'S
WHAT YOU DO! FLY
RIGHT OVER TO BOLLING
AIR FORCE BASE...WE'LL
MEET YOU THERE!



PROFESSOR, DISREGARD
LAST ORDER... THIS IS
THE NAVY... FLY TO
ANACOSTIA!

NO! NO! THIS
IS THE ARMY!
FLY DIRECTLY
TO FORT MYER!

THEY'VE HAD THEIR CHANCE... I KNOW
NOW WHAT I'M GOING TO DO!



MOMENTS LATER, THE FLYING CAR LANDS
ON THE WHITE HOUSE LAWN. . .

OH, MY HAIR'S A MESS... I
HAVEN'T A THING TO WEAR...

SURROUND IT...
COVER ALL
ESCAPE ROUTES!



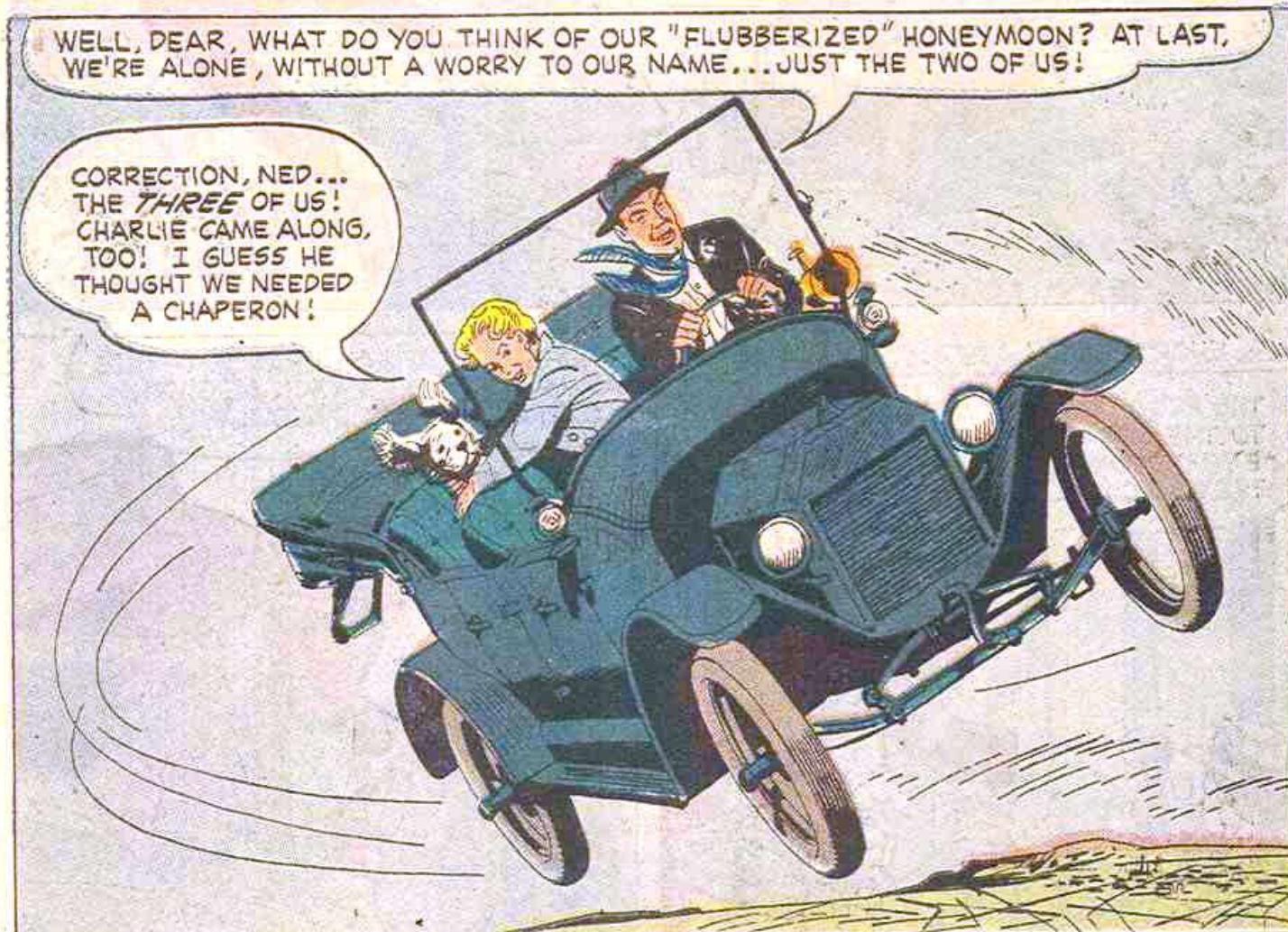
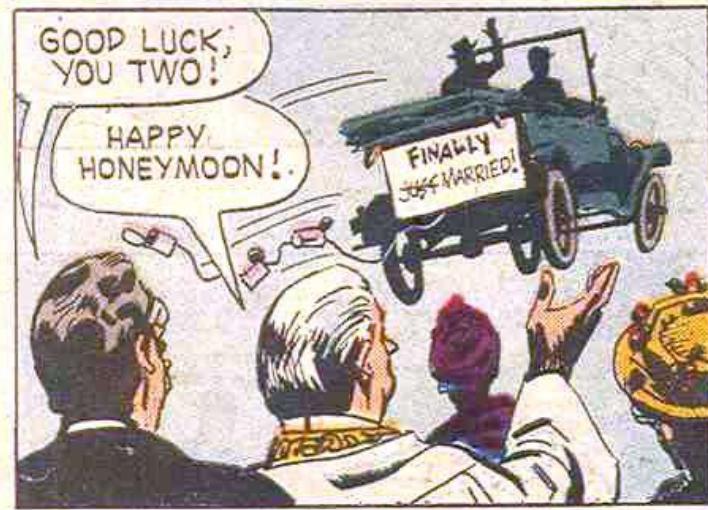
A SHORT TIME LATER...

THE PRESIDENT, DEVOTED AS ALWAYS
TO THE ADVANCE OF SCIENCE,... HAS
EMBRACED FLUBBER WITH
TREMENDOUS ENTHUSIASM!



PROFESSOR, WHICH BRANCH OF THE
ARMED SERVICES WILL BE GIVEN
CONTROL OF YOUR DISCOVERY?





PIONEER INVENTORS



Man by nature is an enterprising creature, and in his desire for better living he has made many discoveries and inventions. In recognition of his rights to his achievements, the Federal Constitution provides protection for him in Article I, Section 8. Congress established the first patent commission in 1790.



The first patent in the United States was issued to Samuel Hopkins for his improved method of making potash. He had no trouble establishing his claim, but many inventors have had long and costly court battles before gaining their patents.



Elias Howe, considered the inventor of the sewing machine, had to fight in the courts to protect his design. A machinist, Walter Hunt, who had also designed a lock stitch machine, challenged Howe's right to the patent and tried to claim it for himself.



The same day Alexander Graham Bell applied for a patent on the telephone, Elisha Gray filed a notice of invention for the same instrument. After long litigation, the supreme court finally approved Bell's patent and his rights to the telephone.



Before Eli Whitney could patent his cotton gin, his model was stolen. Machines built from his design were said to have come from Switzerland. He fought his claim for many years, but full credit was not awarded him until after his death.

FABULOUS FORMULA



While Christopher Columbus was not an inventor, he did discover rubber in a manner of speaking. On his second voyage to the New World, he found native children of Haiti playing games with bouncing balls made from the hardened juice of trees. When he returned to Spain, he carried samples of this curiosity back with him. However, almost 350 years passed before rubber began to serve man well.



The substance did not have a name in the English language until 1770, when Joseph Priestly, an English chemist, said that it was good for rubbing out pencil marks. He called it *rubber*, the name we use today.



Early explorers found the Mexican Indians wearing shoes waterproofed with the gummy material, and they coated their own clothing with the juice, thus creating a crude formula for today's modern rubberware.



Due to its stickiness in hot weather, rubber garments were uncomfortable to wear. In 1823 a Scotsman, Macintosh, patented a raincoat made with rubber between layers of cloth...rainwear which still bears his name.



Rubber goods stiffened in cold weather. This problem was solved in 1839, when Charles Goodyear accidentally dropped latex mixed with sulphur on a hot stove. The cooked mixture was not affected by weather changes.